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PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLN
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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3299

INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE

RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE

RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5544

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3264

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RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3800

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001037

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL TX

SUBJECT: TURKMEN GOVERNMENT AGREES TO MOVE FORWARD ON
ANNUAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 80747

¶1. (SBU) On August 14, Post received the Turkmenistan Foreign Ministry's response to reftel letter and non-paper proposing the establishment of regular bilateral policy consultations. In its response, "the Turkmen side consent(ed) to arranging the high-level consultations between Turkmenistan and the United States" as proposed in reftel.

¶2. (SBU) COMMENT: Now the the Turkmen Government has formally given the green light to annual bilateral consultations along the lines we proposed, the ball is back in our court to give substance and a timetable to the process. Based on some other countries' experiences with the Turkmen in such fora, left to their own devices, the Turkmen would likely be satisfied with form over substance. END COMMENT.

MILES